

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 554

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to recognize Blount Memorial Hospital, its Senior Services programs, and the visionary behind Caregiver Consultations, Edward Harper.

WHEREAS, the population of the State of Tennessee that is sixty years of age or older is projected to reach 1,463,222 in the year 2040; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent of persons age 65 and over will need some form of long-term care in their lifetime, but less than three percent have planned for long-term care or spoken with the family member who will be their caregiver; and

WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older people living in the community who receive personal assistance rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help and aid; and

WHEREAS, Blount Memorial Hospital has seen the need to educate the citizens of Maryville, the surrounding cities, and the surrounding counties on this need for long-term care and has implemented a visionary program to assist with the planning process for the elderly and aging population; and

WHEREAS, the Blount Memorial Senior Services was initiated twelve years ago to provide a strong, focused plan and commitment to implement health care services to the growing number of seniors in the area; and

WHEREAS, Edward Harper, the Senior Services coordinator, who first approached the leadership of Blount Memorial Hospital, succeeded in his desire to turn his vision of conversations with a purpose into a reality; and

WHEREAS, all aspects of Senior Services through Blount Memorial Hospital are gratis for the Seniors and Caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the educational programs, which include Community Seminars and Activities, utilize the expertise of Mr. Harper, hospital staff, physicians, AARP, local Veteran's Affairs offices, church groups, elder law attorneys, community action agencies, nursing homes, and transitional care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of the Senior Services program, supervised by Edward Harper and facilitated by Blount Memorial Hospital, has impacted the lives of 22,138 individuals through seminars and activities, Caregiver Consultations, and support group meetings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and applaud the dedicated work of Edward Harper and his Senior Services program at Blount Memorial Hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.